Life Sciences Division

BioRhythms

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Integration of LSD Adminstrative Staff Into ASD

Effective January 13th, all Life Sciences Division administrative personnel joined the Administrative Services Department (ASD), a newly created laboratory-wide unit whose charge is to increase efficiencies, effectiveness and professional development among the administrative and clerical staff at LBNL. The head of the ASD is Meredith Montgomery, who brings to this position over five years of experience as administrative manager of the Nuclear Sciences Division.

To serve the best interests of the staff and the Division, LSD management is working closely with ASD to ensure a smooth transition.

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INSIDE

Mina Wins Lawrence Award

Life Sciences Division Director Mina Bissell was named one of the seven winners of the DOE's 1996 E.O. Lawrence Award. Mina is being honored for postulating and then identifying an important role for extracellular matrix (ECM), a network of fibrous and globular proteins that surround and support all tissues. Using normal and cancerous breast cells, Dr. Bissell and her colleagues have shown that ECM is crucial in regulating all aspects of normal epithelial tissues: from growth, to cell death, to differentiation.

The Lawrence Award was established in 1959 to honor the memory of the late Ernest Orlando Lawrence, winner of the 1939 Nobel Prize in physics for his invention of the cyclotron, and founder of the national laboratories in Berkeley and Livermore that bear his name today. The awards are given annually in seven categories for outstanding contributions in the field of atomic energy, broadly defined. Winners receive a gold medal and a citation. Nominations were screened by independent review panels and recommended to DOE by an interagency awards committee.

Salutations To Our New and Returning Colleagues!

Life Sciences community extends a warm greeting to the following new employees:

Ishtiyaque Ahmad	Cancer Biology	70A-1118
Dana Alcivare	Human Genome Center	74-157
Rosanne Boudreau	Cancer Biology	83-101
Polly Chang	Radiation Biology	70A-1118
Kelly Frazer	Molecular & Nuclear Medicine	74-157
Peter Gin	Biophysics & Biomolecular Structure	6-2100
Roger Hoskins	Human Genome Center	64-121
Sarah Hummasti	Human Genome Center	74-157
Soo-In Hwang	Cancer Biology	74-157
Kalpana Karra	Human Genome Center	74-157
Johnathon Lakins	Cancer Biology	934-47A
Anthu Le	Biophysics & Biomolecular Structure	Donner
Joong Lee	Biophysics & Biomolecular Structure	Donner
Sluan Lin	Human Genome Center	74-157
Wen-Man Liu	Cancer Biology	70A-1118
Poupak Mazda	Human Genome Center	74-157
Michael Moles	Molecular & Nuclear Medicine	55-121
Carlos Ortiz de Solorzano	Cancer Biology	74-157
Kelcey Poe	Administration	Donner
Ashesh Savla	Human Genome Center	74-157
Haixin Sui	Biophysics & Biomolecular Structure	Donner

Joke of the Month:
The trouble with the gene pool is there's no lifeguard.

Radiation Biology and DNA Repair Department Welcomes New Scientist

by Janice Mann

The most recent member of the DNA Repair Group is Dr. William ("Bill") Morgan, who comes to us from the University of California, San Francisco, where he is a professor in residence in the Department of Radiation Oncology. Energetic and enthusiastic about his new surroundings, Dr. Morgan reports that he is looking forward to broadening his research activities at LBNL.

Upon receiving his Ph.D. in Cytogenetics from the University of Canterbury, he came to the United States in 1981 to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship at UCSF. Fifteen years later, Dr. Morgan has established an active, well-respected laboratory in cancer biology.

Specifically, his program consists of biophysical, biochemical, and molecular studies with various DNA damaging agents to examine their effect on chromosome structure. Two primary avenues of research are currently underway. His group is using restriction endonucleases which make a single DNA double strand break at defined nucleotide sequences within the genome. The objectives are to analyze cellular responses to induce DNA strand breaks, the biological repair processes that may modify the lesion produced, and the way in which lesions exert their cytogenetic effects. In addition, the long term consequences of radiation-induced DNA damages are being investigated. Chromosome rearrangements and delayed chromosomal instability in the progeny of cell surviving exposure to ionizing radiation are being studied to determine the role of cytogenetic changes in mutagenesis, carcinogenesis, gene amplification, and delayed reproductive cell death.

"I am thrilled to be here," reports Dr. Morgan. "934 is a tremendously interactive building. The space and opportunities to expand are unlimited, and I especially appreciate the availability of parking!" Dr. Morgan was quick to add, "I am excited about the potential collaborations with Ruth (Lupu) and Maria (Pallavicini). My current discussions with Drs. Priscilla Cooper, Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff, Ellen Blakely, and Amy Kronenberg also show promise for future collaborations. The critical mass of personnel is unmatched anywhere. And I might add, Kevin Peet has been indispensable!"

A hearty welcome to Dr. Morgan.

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OPA Nominations

Feb 21 .....First cycle nominations to be submitted to Karen Springsteen
July 18..... Second cycle nominations to be submitted to Karen Springsteen

Telecommuting

Just a note to all Life Sciences Division personnel:

There has been a lot of discussion on the radio and television these days about telecommuting. The Laboratory does have formal procedures required for anyone needing to telecommute for a specific reason or for a certain period of time.

The "Agreement and Authorization for Telecommuting" form requires the signature approval of your immediate supervisor, the Division Director, and the Head of Human Resources. These approvals should be obtained prior to working off-site.

Further information on telecommuting can be obtained through http://www.lbl.gov/Workplace/RPM/R2.22.html#RTFToC14 or please contact Karen Springsteen at X6891.

DESPERATELY SEEKING IDEAS (for the newsletter)! HAVE ANY? SEND THEM TO degilbert@lbl.gov ~ or ~ jlmann@lbl.gov (editor of *BioRhythms*)

CEB Forum

The speakers for the months of February and March are Robert Miller, Todd Stevens, Angus McGrath, and Joseph Cooney. For information on schedules and locations, please access:

http://www-esd.lbl.gov/CEB/CEB-Speakers.html

Safety

by Tony Linard

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

DOE Site Office reiterates that emergency warnings should be taken seriously. Staff should familiarize themselves with the building evacuation maps, which are posted by staircases or elevators. The LBNL emergency telephone number is x7911. This number can be used for all types of emergencies, including fire, medical, vehicle accident, explosion, hazardous chemical spill, and release of radioactive material.

PERSONAL DOSIMETRY:

Because many LSD laboratories use radioactive materials at a very low level, it may not be necessary for all scientific staff to wear a dosimeter, as defined by the terms of the applicable Radioactive Work Authorization (RWA). Therefore, for those who do not wish to carry dosimeters and whose RWA's do not require that they be worn, you are encouraged to turn them in to the Dosimetry Office (MS 90-0026) with a signed note requesting that you be removed from the dosimetry program.

Any EH&S related questions should be directed to Tony Linard (ext. 6149).

Life Sciences Division Spins a Web Page

At long last, the Division has its own home-spun web page. The page is designed to give an internaut a brief overview of the activities of Life Sciences at Berkeley Lab. You can find the page linked to the Berkeley Lab "Scientific Programs" node. One can access it directly at http://www.lbl.gov/lifesciences/

If you have links that you would like to make from this page to one that describes your group's program, or have particular comments, please direct them to the page master at degilbert@lblgov.

Cosmo Comes Calling

Life Sciences statistician Paul Williams from the Lipoprotein and Atherosclerosis Group has made the pages of Cosmopolitan Magazine's February Issue (sorry, not the cover, that distinction was reserved for supermodel Claudia Schiffer). The short blurb, "Bad Rap for Genes," describes his twins study, active versus coach potato. His words hold hope for those of us with fat seeking genes, "Even if fat genes make you susceptible to obesity, you have plenty of control over whether that predisposition results in excess weight." Yeah Paul, easier said than done.

Paul's work is a lot more than meets the eye of Cosmo readers. The American Medical Association releases each week a video segment from one of the articles published in their journals. On January 28 the video focused on Paul's article appearing in the Archives of Internal Medicine on the health benefits of running in over 7,000 men. This study showed higher mileage runners had higher level of HDL-cholesterol (the so-called good cholesterol), lower blood pressure, LDL (bad)-cholesterol, and body weight and 50% less use of medications to control blood pressure and cholesterol levels. An earlier report appearing last year in the New England Journal of Medicine showed similar health benefits in women runners. The runners were some of the 56,000 participants of the National Runners' Health Study. Paul plans to increase the number of women runners from 14,000 to 50,000 and to add to his study a cohort of 56,000 walkers. The walkers' questionnaire was published in the February issue of Walking magazine.

Paul's studies are questioning current government guidelines on physical activity. Says Dr. Williams, "The government guidelines currently state that the majority of health benefits can be obtained by walking 2 miles daily. This exercise recommendation is good for totally sedentary men and women, but could discourage those who are already active. I believe exercise is an investment, where a little invested yields modest results, and substantial investment yields substantial results. People must decide for themselves how healthy they want to be."

Life Sciences Division Seminars

at Bldg. 66 Auditorium 4:00 PM

☛ **Tuesday, February 25, 1997**

Sohaib Khan, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy

Co-Hosts - Ruth Lupu & Shyamala Harris

☛**Tuesday, March 25, 1997**

Kathleen Collins, University of California at Berkeley, Molecular and Cell Biology

Host - Paul Kaufman

Science Pays More Than One Way!

The innovations of several Life Sciences investigators were rewarded with the distribution of royalties late last year. $50,000 was brought into the Division's coffers from the efforts of the following individuals and their patents and/or license agreements:

Damir Sudar and David Kaszuba (Quips Software);
Ron Krauss, Joe Orr and Pat Blanche (Berkeley HeartLab, Inc.);
Gisela Clemons (Diagnostic Systems);
Eddy Rubin (Eli Lilly);
Goberdhan Dimri, Judy Campisi (Geron).

According to Laboratory policy, after administrative expenses, inventors receive 50% of the first $100,000 of cumulative net royalties and fees per invention. After that, the Technology Transfer Department directs the Chief Financial Office to distribute annually Laboratory royalty income to the Division in which the invention arose. The Division then allocates at least half of the Laboratory royalty income to the research group in which the invention arose. The Division must use Laboratory royalty income for research activities within the mission of the Laboratory. Expenditures may include operating costs (e.g., personnel costs or supplies) or equipment in support of that research. Life Sciences has set up an interest-bearing account to help build this nest egg.

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With a significantly expanded base of departmental staff resources, the ASD will provide flexibility to aid the Division's fluctuations in workload. Furthermore, ASD will eventually offer uniformity of work standards and tools, broaden opportunities for staff development and ensure compensation equity across the laboratory.

The supervisory arrangement in ASD will be only slightly different from that of the past. Each ASD member will have an ASD coordinating supervisor (in most cases, Mary Worth), in addition to his/her current day-to-day supervisor. The two, in concert, will prepare the annual performance appraisal. Letters have been distributed to each LSD staff member informing them of their assigned ASD supervisor.

Any specific questions or concerns about the ASD organization should be addressed to Mary Worth (ext. 6671).

1997 Administrative Staff Meetings

The tentative schedule for the 1997 Administrative Staff Meetings, to be held in the conference room in Building 66 from 10:00-11:30 a.m., is as follows:

March 13
May 15
July 17
September 11
November 13

Please mark your calendars with these dates. Important updates on administrative issues will be discussed.

1997 Brown Bag Meetings

The Brown Bag lectures have been reinstated for the new year and will be held from 11:30-1:00 p.m. on alternating months in B66-316, unless otherwise indicated. We are honored to have the following scientists speak on the dates below:

April 10: Shyamala Harris
June 12: Paul Williams
August 14: Amy Kronenberg
October 16: Jon Nagy (B62-203)

Many thanks to Eddy Rubin, the first speaker of the Brown Bag series, who presented an overview of the genome program. It was very well received.

All staff are cordially invited to hear about the exciting research being conducted in the Life Sciences Division.

If you have any questions, please contact Adele Sylar (ext. 5803).